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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/57/549)*]

57/179. Working towards the elimination of crimes against women committed in the name of honour

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the obligation of all States to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to life, liberty and security of person, as stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] and reaffirming also the obligations of States parties under human rights instruments, in particular the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[2] the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[2] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[3] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[4]

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action[5] and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[6] as well as the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women,[7] and the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[8]

Bearing in mind that crimes against women committed in the name of honour are a human rights issue and that States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish the perpetrators of such crimes and to provide protection to the victims, and that not doing so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms,

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[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

[2] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[3] Resolution 34/180, annex.

[4] Resolution 44/25, annex.

[5] A/CONF.157/24 (Part I), chap. III.

[6] See resolution 48/104.

[7] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[8] Resolution S-23/3, annex.

Stressing the need to treat all forms of violence against women and girls, including crimes committed in the name of honour, as a criminal offence, punishable by law,

Aware that inadequate understanding of the root causes of all violence against women, including crimes committed in the name of honour, which take many different forms, and inadequate data on such violence hinder informed policy analysis, at both the domestic and the international levels, and efforts to eliminate such violence,

Deeply concerned that women and girls are victims of these crimes, as described in the relevant sections of the reports of the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and notes in this regard the relevant parts of the report of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, its causes and consequences,[9]

Emphasizing that such crimes are incompatible with all religious and cultural values,

Bearing in mind Commission on Human Rights resolution 2002/52 of 23 April 2002,[10]

Emphasizing that the elimination of crimes against women committed in the name of honour requires greater efforts and commitment on the part of Governments and the international community, inter alia, through international cooperation efforts, and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, and that fundamental changes in societal attitude are required,

Underlining the importance of the empowerment of women and their effective participation in decision-making and policy-making processes as one of the critical tools to prevent and eliminate crimes against women committed in the name of honour,

1. *Welcomes*:

(*a*) The activities and initiatives of States aimed at the elimination of crimes against women committed in the name of honour, including the adoption of amendments to relevant national laws relating to such crimes, the effective implementation of such laws and educational, social and other measures, including national information and awareness-raising campaigns, as well as activities and initiatives of States aimed at the elimination of all other forms of violence against women;

(*b*) The efforts, such as projects, undertaken by United Nations bodies, funds and programmes, including the United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the United Nations Development Fund for Women, to address the issue of crimes against women committed in the name of honour, and encourages them to coordinate their efforts;

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[9] E/CN.4/2002/83, paras. 21–37.

[10] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2002, Supplement No. 3* (E/2002/23), chap. II, sect. A.

(*c*) The work carried out by civil society, including non-governmental organizations, such as women's organizations, grass-roots movements and individuals, in raising awareness of such crimes and their harmful effects;

2. *Expresses its concern* that women continue to be victims of crimes committed in the name of honour, and at the continuing occurrence in all regions of the world of such violence, which takes many different forms, and at failures to prosecute and punish perpetrators;

3. *Calls upon* all States:

(*a*) To fulfil their obligations under the relevant international human rights instruments and to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[7] and the outcome document of the special session of the General Assembly;[8]

(*b*) To continue to intensify efforts to prevent and eliminate crimes against women committed in the name of honour, which take many different forms, by using legislative, administrative and programmatic measures;

(*c*) To investigate promptly and thoroughly, prosecute effectively and document cases of crimes against women committed in the name of honour and punish the perpetrators;

(*d*) To take all necessary measures to ensure that such crimes are not tolerated;

(*e*) To intensify efforts to raise awareness of the need to prevent and eliminate crimes against women committed in the name of honour, with the aim of changing the attitudes and behaviour that allow such crimes to be committed by involving, inter alia, community leaders;

(*f*) To encourage the efforts of the media to engage in awareness-raising campaigns;

(*g*) To encourage, support and implement measures and programmes aimed at increasing the knowledge and understanding of the causes and consequences of crimes against women committed in the name of honour, including the provision of training for those responsible for enforcing the law, such as police personnel and judicial and legal personnel, and to strengthen their capacity to respond to complaints of such crimes in an impartial and effective manner and take necessary measures to ensure the protection of actual and potential victims;

(*h*) To continue to support the work of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in addressing this issue and to strengthen cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations;

(*i*) To establish, strengthen or facilitate, where possible, support services to respond to the needs of actual and potential victims by, inter alia, providing for them the appropriate protection, safe shelter, counselling, legal aid, health-care services, rehabilitation and reintegration into society;

(*j*) To address effectively complaints of crimes against women committed in the name of honour, inter alia, by creating, strengthening or facilitating institutional mechanisms so that victims and others can report such crimes in a safe and confidential environment;

(*k*) To gather and disseminate statistical information on the occurrence of such crimes, including information disaggregated by age;

(*l*) To include, if within their reporting obligations, information on legal and policy measures adopted and implemented in their efforts to prevent and eliminate crimes against women committed in the name of honour, where appropriate, in their reports to the human rights treaty bodies, including the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;

4. *Invites*:

(*a*) The international community, including relevant United Nations bodies, funds and programmes, inter alia, through technical assistance and advisory services programmes, to support the efforts of all countries, at their request, aimed at strengthening institutional capacity for preventing crimes against women committed in the name of honour and at addressing the root causes of such crimes;

(*b*) The relevant human rights treaty bodies to continue to address this issue, where appropriate;

(*c*) The Commission on the Status of Women to address this subject at its forty-seventh session under the priority theme "Women's human rights and the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls, as defined in the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the special session of the General Assembly entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century' ";

5. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[11]

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his report on the issue of elimination of violence against women to be submitted to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session a substantive report on the subject of the present resolution, based on all available data, containing an analysis of the root causes of these crimes, supportive statistical data, where available, and information on initiatives taken by States.

77th plenary meeting
18 December 2002

[11] A/57/169.